

Message Text

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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 03 GENEVA 03345

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SUBJECT: INTERNATIONAL NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS
CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT. GENEVA, FEBRUARY 27 - MARCH 2.

1. AT THE FINAL MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL NON-GOVERN-
MENTAL ORGANIZATIONS CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT ON MARCH 2,
THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE TO THE SPECIAL SESSION OF THE UN
GENERAL ASSEMBLY DEVOTED TO DISARMAMENT WAS ADOPTED BY
CONSENSUS. QUOTE:

-- 1. THE INTERNATIONAL NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS
CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT, MEETING IN THE PALAIS DES
NATIONS, GENEVA, FROM 27 FEBRUARY TO 2 MARCH, 1978,
ASSEMBLED 511 REPRESENTATIVES OF 78 INTERNATIONAL AND
185 NATIONAL ORGANISATIONS FROM 46 COUNTRIES. THE CON-
FERENCE, REPRESENTING A BROAD RANGE OF POLITICAL, PHILO-
SOPHICAL AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC TENDENCIES, EXPRESSED ITS
SATISFACTION THAT FOR THE FIRST TIME IN THE HISTORY OF
THE UNITED NATIONS A SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL
ASSEMBLY IS BEING DEVOTED EXCLUSIVELY TO DISARMAMENT.
THIS IS AN IMPORTANT RESPONSE TO THE ASPIRATIONS OF THE
PEOPLES OF THE WORLD, REPEATEDLY EXPRESSED BY THE NGO
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COMMUNITY.

-- 2. THE CONFERENCE NOTES THAT THE CALLING OF THE
SPECIAL SESSION HAS ALREADY LED TO A GREATER AWARENESS
OF THE NEED AND URGENCY OF WORKING TOWARDS DISARMEMENT
AND HAS GENERATED SEVERAL IMPORTANT PROPOSALS WHICH HAVE
BEEN SUBMITTED TO THE SESSION.

-- 3. THE NGOS PARTICIPATING IN THE CONFERENCE ONCE AGAIN EXPRESS THE DEEP ANXIETY OF THE PEOPLES OF THE WORLD, CONFRONTED BY THE QUALITATIVE AND QUANTITATIVE ACCELERATION OF THE ARMS RACE; THE CONTINUED DEVELOPMENT OF NEW AND HIGHLY SOPHISTICATED WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION WHICH PRESENT THE WORLD WITH AN EVER GREATER THREAT; THE GROWING DANGER OF THE PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS; THE SENSELESS WASTE OF HUMAN, TECHNOLOGICAL AND FINANCIAL RESOURCES CAUSED BY THE ARMAMENTS RACE WHICH DIRECTLY AFFECTS THE PEOPLES OF THE WORLD IN BOTH INDUSTRIAL AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.

-- 4. IN THIS CONNECTION, THE CONFERENCE NOTES WITH GRAVE CONCERN THE DETRIMENTAL EFFECTS OF THE ARMS RACE ON CURRENT TENSIONS AND ARMED CONFLICTS, ON THE ECONOMIC SITUATION OF THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND THE REAL DANGER THIS REPRESENTS FOR THE PEACEFUL DEVELOPMENT OF HUMANITY - EVEN FOR ITS VERY SURVIVAL.

-- 5. NEVERTHELESS, THE NGOS REITERATE THEIR FIRM CONVICTION THAT STEPS TO STOP THE ARMS RACE AND TO MAKE PROGRESS TOWARDS DISARMAMENT ARE POSSIBLE. THEY ARE POLITICALLY POSSIBLE AS HAS BEEN DEMONSTRATED BY THE GAINS SO FAR ACHIEVED THROUGH THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL CLIMATE OF DETENTE, THROUGH THE CONCLUSION OF UNCLASSIFIED

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THE HELSINKI FINAL ACT AND OTHER TREATIES AND AGREEMENTS. THEY ARE TECHNICALLY POSSIBLE, AS SHOWN BY EXPERT STUDIES, PARTICULARLY IN THE LIGHT OF TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENTS FACILITATING MEANS OF VERIFICATION.

-- 6. THE CONFERENCE EXPRESSES ITS FIRM BELIEF THAT THE ENDING OF THE ARMS RACE IS VITAL TO THE SOLUTION OF THE MOST URGENT PROBLEMS FACING THE WORLD COMMUNITY. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE ELIMINATION OF COLONIALISM, NEO-COLONIALISM AND ALL FORMS OF OPPRESSION, THE STRENGTHENING OF PEACEFUL CO-EXISTENCE AND DETENTE AMONG NATIONS ARE ESSENTIAL REQUIREMENTS FOR THE ACHIEVEMENT OF GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT.

-- 7. THE SPECIAL SESSION BEARS A CRUCIAL RESPONSIBILITY TO REACH AGREEMENT ON CONCRETE MEASURES OF DISARMAMENT AND TO BUILD FIRM POLITICAL WILL AMONG ALL THE MEMBERS OF THE UNITED NATIONS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THOSE MEASURES.

-- 8. THE CONFERENCE EXPRESSES AN EARNEST HOPE THAT THE SPECIAL SESSION WILL MEET THIS RESPONSIBILITY AND RE-

AFFIRMS THE DETERMINATION OF NGOS TO WORK RELENTLESSLY
TO STIMULATE AND REINFORCE THE NECESSARY POLITICAL WILL.

-- 9. THE CONFERENCE SUBMITS THE FOLLOWING RECOMMENDA-
TIONS IN REGARD TO THE MAIN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA OF THE
SPECIAL SESSION.

- DECLARATION ON DISARMAMENT

-- 10. THE ADOPTION BY THE SSD OF A DECLARATION ON

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DISARMAMENT, CONTAINING SOUND FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES FOR
DISARMAMENT NEGOTIATIONS, WITH A PRIORITY FOR NUCLEAR
DISARMAMENT, WOULD STIMULATE COOPERATION AMONG NATIONS
IN THIS VITAL FIELD.

-- 11. THE CONFERENCE CALLS UPON THE PARTICIPATING STATES
TO REITERATE SOLEMNLY AND UNEQUIVOCALLY THEIR DEDICATION,
AS THE MAIN ULTIMATE GOAL OF ALL EFFORTS IN THE DISARMA-
MENT FIELD, TO GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT UNDER
STRICT AND EFFECTIVE INTERNATIONAL CONTROL.

-- 12. THE CONFERENCE URGES ALL STATES TO JOIN IN A
COMMON COMMITMENT TO INTENSIFY THEIR EFFORTS TO WORK
OUT A COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAMME FOR DISARMAMENT AND TO
ADOPT, WITHOUT FURTHER DELAY, MEASURES LEADING TO GENERAL
AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT WHICH WOULD EXTEND PEACE AND
SECURITY TO ALL HUMANITY ON A SOUND AND DURABLE BASIS.

-- 13. THE NGOS RECOMMEND THAT THE FOLLOWING BASIC

PRINCIPLES BE EMBODIED IN THE DECLARATION:

- DISARMAMENT SHOULD BE RECOGNISED AS A PRIORITY
CONCERN FOR ALL NATIONS.
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- ALL STATES, AND IN THE FIRST PLACE THOSE WITH
SUBSTANTIAL MILITARY CAPABILITIES, SHOULD PARTICIPATE
IN A GENERAL DISARMAMENT PROCESS.

- IN THIS DISARMAMENT PROCESS, THE NUCLEAR POWERS
SHOULD BEAR SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR CARRYING OUT CON-
CERTED MEASURES FOR A BAN ON THE PRODUCTION, DEPLOYMENT,
STOCKPILING AND USE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS AND THE DELIVERY
SYSTEMS TO ACHIEVE EFFECTIVE AND COMPLETE NUCLEAR DIS-
ARMAMENT.

- ALL STATES SHOULD ACCEPT RESPONSIBILITY FOR ENDING
THE CONVENTIONAL ARMS RACE AND FOR REDUCING WEAPONS STOCKS.

- ALL THE ARMS LIMITATION AND DISARMAMENT MEASURES
SHOULD BE DEvised AND IMPLEMENTED SO AS TO ENSURE AND
ENHANCE THE SECURITY OF EACH PARTICIPATING STATE AND
INTERNATIONAL SECURITY IN GENERAL.

- ALL STATES SHOULD REFRAIN FROM ANY ACTIONS WHICH
MIGHT IMPAIR THE SUCCESS OF THE ON-GOING NEGOTIATIONS
ON DISARMAMENT.

- THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ARMS LIMITATION AND DISARMA-
MENT MEASURES SHOULD GO HAND IN HAND WITH EFFORTS TO
RE-INFORCE AND DEVELOP INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND
DETENTE; TO SETTLE INTERNATIONAL DISPUTES AND CONFLICTS
BY PEACEFUL MEANS, PARTICULARLY BY USING THE APPROPRIATE
U.N. MACHINERY; AND ADHERE STRICTLY TO THE PRINCIPLE OF
NON-USE OF FORCE OR THE THREAT OF FORCE IN RELATIONS
BETWEEN STATES.

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- THE DIVERSION OF SCIENCE FOR THE PURPOSES OF IN-
VENTING EVER MORE DEADLY WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION MUST
BE DISCONTINUED AND STATES SHOULD ASSUME THE RESPONSIBILITY
TO USE SCIENTIFIC-TECHNOLOGICAL ACHIEVEMENTS FOR PEACEFUL
PURPOSES ONLY.

- DISARMAMENT AGREEMENTS SHOULD BE ACCOMPANIED BY
ADEQUATE MEASURES OF CONTROL TO SECURE THEIR STRICT
OBSERVANCE BY ALL PARTIES.

- EXPLICIT PROVISIONS SHOULD BE MADE THAT MATERIAL
AND HUMAN RESOURCES, PRESENTLY ALLOCATED TO THE MILITARY
SPHERE, BE USED TO INCREASE THE WELL-BEING OF PEOPLES,
AND PARTICULARLY TO PROMOTE ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL
PROGRESS OF LESS DEVELOPED NATIONS, TO FACILITATE THE
ESTABLISHMENT OF THE NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER.

-- 14. THE NGOS EMPHASISE THAT TO BE EFFECTIVE, THESE
PRINCIPLES MUST BE FOLLOWED BY ACTION. THEY SHOULD
LEAD TO BINDING TREATIES AND CONVENTIONS TO THIS EFFECT
AND TO ADHERENCE TO THEM BY ALL STATES.

PROGRAMME OF ACTION IN THE FIELD OF DISARMAMENT

15. DECISIVE PROGRESS CAN AND MUST BE MADE RAPIDLY IN THE
FOLLOWING AREAS:

- THE ENDING OF THE QUALITATIVE DEVELOPMENT OF NUCLEAR
ARMS INCLUDING THE COMPLETE CESSATION OF NUCLEAR TESTING
BY ALL STATES; A HALT TO THE MANUFACTURE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS
AND THEIR PROGRESSIVE REDUCTION, LEADING TO THEIR COMPLETE

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ELIMINATION FROM THE ARSENALS OF ALL NATIONS; THE ADOPTION
OF AN APPROPRIATE INTERNATIONAL LEGAL INSTRUMENT OUTLAWING
THE USE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS.

- IMMEDIATE AND URGENT STEPS SHOULD BE TAKEN TO PREVENT DEVELOPMENT, PRODUCTION AND DEPLOYMENT OF ANY NEW VARIETIES OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS, SUCH AS NEUTRON BOMBS WHICH, BY LOWERING THE NUCLEAR THRESHOLD, INCREASE CONSIDERABLY THE DANGER OF ESCALATION OF ANY CONFLICT INTO A FULL-SCALE NUCLEAR CONFLAGRATION AND CONSTITUTE AN IMPORTANT FACTOR IN THE INTENSIFICATION OF THE ARMS RACE. IT IS URGED THAT A CONVENTION BE ENTERED INTO PROHIBITING THE PRODUCTION OR DEPLOYMENT OF ANY SUCH NEW WEAPONS.

- THE STRENGTHENING OF THE NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION REGIME, MAKING IT UNIVERSAL WITH EFFECTIVE SAFEGUARDS AGAINST THE USE OF FISSIONABLE MATERIAL FOR NUCLEAR WEAPONS.

- THE CONCLUSION OF A CONVENTION BANNING THE DEVELOPMENT, MANUFACTURE AND STOCKPIILING OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS, AND STIPULATING THE DESTRUCTION OF EXISTING STOCKPILES.

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- THE BANNING OF RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, MANUFACTURE AND DEPLOYMENT OF ANY NEW WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION SUCH AS, FOR EXAMPLE, GENETIC ENGINEERING, CLIMATIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL MODIFICATION.

- SIGNIFICANT AND RAPID REDUCTIONS OF THE HUGE SPENDING ON ARMAMENTS, EXCEEDING AT PRESENT ONE BILLION DOLLARS A DAY, AND THE TRANSFER OF AN IMPORTANT PART OF THE FINANCIAL AS WELL AS THE TECHNOLOGICAL RESOURCES THEREBY RELEASED TO HELP DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, AND ALSO THE REDEPLOYMENT FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES OF THE WORKERS ENGAGED IN THE RESEARCH AND PRODUCTION OF ARMS.

- THE ADOPTION OF MEASURES FOR REDUCING ARMED FORCES, CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS AND INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN AND TRANSFER OF ARMS.

- ESTABLISHMENT OF NUCLEAR WEAPON FREE ZONES AND ZONES OF PEACE, DISMANTLING OF FOREIGN MILITARY BASES; THE DISSOLUTION OF ALL MILITARY BLOCS. SUCH STEPS WOULD STRENGTHEN THE SECURITY OF ALL STATES CONCERNED AND FURTHER THE PROCESS OF INTERNATIONAL DETENTE.

- THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE DEEPENING AND CONSOLIDATION OF INTERNATIONAL DETENTE, ADOPTED BY THE XXXII SESSION OF THE U.N. GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

- MACHINERY

16. THE CONFERENCE CALLS UPON THE SPECIAL SESSION TO
ADOPT MEASURES DIRECTED AT EFFECTIVE FUNCTIONING OF THE
MACHINERY FOR NEGOTIATIONS ON DISARMAMENT AND AT STRENGTH-
ENING THE ROLE OF THE UNITED NATIONS IN THIS REGARD, SUCH
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AS PROMPT IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE AD
HOC COMMITTEE ON THE REVIEW OF THE ROLE OF THE UNITED
NATIONS IN DISARMAMENT.

17. THE CONFERENCE URGES THE SPECIAL SESSION TO TAKE
APPROPRIATE MEASURES TO ENABLE NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZA-
TIONS, ON THE WIDEST POSSIBLE SCALE, TO CONTRIBUTE ACTIVELY
TO THE DISCUSSIONS OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND ITS AGENCIES
ON DISARMAMENT.

18. THE CONFERENCE IS CONCERNED THAT THE WORK BEGUN BY THE
SPECIAL SESSION SHOULD BE CARRIED FORWARD IN ORDER THAT
MORE RAPID STEPS ARE TAKEN TOWARDS THE PROHIBITION OF ALL
NUCLEAR AND OTHER WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION AND TOWARDS
GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT. THIS COULD BE ADVANCED
THROUGH THE EARLY CONVENING OF A WORLD DISARMAMENT CONFER-
ENCE AT WHICH EXTENSIVE MEASURES OF REAL DISARMAMENT BIND-
ING UPON ALL THE GOVERNMENTS SHOULD BE AGREED. THE CON-
FERENCE SUPPORTS THE CONVENING OF SPECIAL SESSIONS OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED NATIONS PROVIDED THEY SHOW
REAL PROGRESS TOWARDS DISARMAMENT.

- CONCLUSION

19. THE NGOS ARE DETERMINED TO PURSUE THEIR EFFORTS TO
DISPEL FEAR, PREJUDICE AND DISTRUST, TO BUILD MUTUAL
CONFIDENCE AND UNDERSTANDING, TO CREATE THE POLITICAL
CLIMATE ESSENTIAL FOR PROGRESS IN DISARMAMENT.

20. THE CONFERENCE URGES ALL NGOS TO INTENSIFY THEIR
ACTIVITIES BEFORE, DURING AND AFTER THE SPECIAL SESSION TO
BUILD WORLD PUBLIC OPINION IN SUPPORT OF ALL DECISIONS OF
THE SPECIAL SESSION FOR THE ENDING OF THE ARMS RACE AND FOR
PROGRESS TOWARDS GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT. THE
CONFERENCE REQUESTS THE UNITED NATIONS TO SUPPORT ACTIVELY
THE NON-GOVERNMENTAL SECTOR IN THIS WORK. END QUOTE.
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